

AIR FILTER DON'TS

A zealous, but poorly informed, service person can do a lot of damage to air intake systems in the name of hands-on maintenance. Here are some things that are better left alone.

- ◆ Don't remove the element for inspection, it invariably does more harm to the engine than good. You can't judge a filter's service by looking at it, and dirt can fall into the clean side of the filter.
- ◆ The only reason to tap on a filter is to destroy it. Embedded dirt won't be released by tapping, and banging hard enough to knock off lighter dust often damages the seal, opening a path for dirt to pass into the engine. It's safer to keep operating with a dirty filter until you can get a fresh replacement.
- ◆ Don't overlook a worn or damaged gasket in the housing. If the air cleaner has a cover gasket, replace it with a new one. Always check to be sure no piece of the old gasket remains in the housing.
- ◆ Don't use a warped cover on a housing. Replace it with a new one as soon as possible.
- ◆ Never leave an air cleaner open longer than necessary. If the element isn't going to be changed immediately, cover the opening.
- ◆ Leave the safety element (the one mounted inside the primary) in place unless a replacement is at hand. If the manufacturer's change interval is unknown, the Filter Manufacturer's Council suggests replacing it at every third change of the primary element.

Technical Service
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